



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES

Scandinavians and Celts in the North-West of England. By EILERT EKWALL. (Lunds Universitets Årsskrift. N.F. Avd. 1. Bd. 14. Nr. 27.)¹ Lund: C. W. K. Gleerup; Leipzig: Otto Harrassowitz, 1918. Pp. xiii+125.

Dr. Eilert Ekwall's *Scandinavians and Celts in the North-West of England* is a systematic study of the important and little-known subject of the population elements in certain parts of the north of England during the Viking occupation. The book "contains the results of an examination of the place- and personal-names of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancashire, undertaken with a view to discover traces of Goidelic influence and thereby to throw some light on the nature and extent of Goidelic influence on the language of the Scandinavians in these districts" (p. 12). Dr. Ekwall also discusses the Brythonic forms in the place-names of the territory covered, especially Cumberland.

As the author admits, the documentation is incomplete, particularly in the omission of the Pipe Rolls and other important publications. The list of Celtic sources might also be considerably extended. Fortunately, however, the inclusion of further linguistic evidence, though important for details, would probably not have materially affected Dr. Ekwall's general conclusions.

A large part of the dissertation is devoted to what the author calls "inversion-compounds," "a peculiar kind of compound names, in which the first element is determined by the second." Typical examples are *Briggethorfin*, 'Thorfin's bridge,' and *Polneuton*, 'Newton pool.' Dr. Ekwall finds in Cumberland and Lancashire a considerable number of inversion-compounds involving Scandinavian and Celtic elements. After examining a large number of cases he concludes that "in all probability inversion-compounds are due to Celtic influence. . . . It follows from the results of the examination of the elements that Goidelic, not Brythonic, influence is to be assumed" (p. 52). From at least as early as the middle of the ninth century the Scandinavians were in more or less close contact with the Goidels of Ireland, Scotland, and the Western Isles,² and it is to some of

¹ *Festschrift utgiven av Lunds Universitet vid dess tvåhundraåriga jubileum, 1918.*

² It should be noted that Marstrander's *Bidrag til det norske sprogs historie i Irland* (Christiania, 1915), which Dr. Ekwall cites as his authority on the Scandinavian elements in early Irish, overemphasizes the importance of the Scandinavian influence. The book is severely criticized by the late Kuno Meyer in the *Sitzungsberichte der preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, XLV (1918), 1030-47. Cf. *Revue celtique*, XXXVI, 241-63.

these Scandinavians (Norwegians rather than Danes) that, according to Dr. Ekwall, we must look for the origin of the place-names discussed. "Most of the inversion-compounds doubtless belong to the earliest Scandinavian names in N.W. England." This method of forming place-names seems to have continued until after the Norman conquest. The author is uncertain whether the Celtic elements were introduced by Scandinavianized Goidels or by "a subject Goidelic class, which had come over with the Scandinavian settlers" (pp. 54 f.), but he inclines to the hypothesis that "the inversion-compounds in England were coined by Scandinavians." In any case Dr. Ekwall's collection of material forms a valuable addition to the constantly growing body of evidence pointing to the strong influence of the Goidels upon the Scandinavian invaders of Celtic territory and to the important part played by Celtic elements in the north of England.

Brythonic elements Dr. Ekwall finds most common in northeast Cumberland. The evidence "proves that a Brythonic population and a Brythonic language must have survived comparatively long in parts of the county" (p. 117). This conclusion should be considered in connection with Rhys's important surmise that Brythonic was spoken in the district of Carnoban (between Leeds and Dumbarton) as late as the fourteenth century (*Celtic Britain*, 3d ed., London, 1904, p. 149).

The general results of Dr. Ekwall's investigation should have a distinct bearing on the question of the possible Celtic elements in certain medieval romances composed in the northwest district of England.

T. P. C.